

Application Serial No.: 08/444,788
Attorney Docket No.: PMC-003 C107

Examiner Aaron Strange

DRAFT PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a an intermediate transmitter station in a network with a plurality of intermediate transmitter stations, the method including:

receiving mass medium programming and a control signal at said intermediate transmitter station from an origination station;

generating information to be associated with said mass medium programming at said transmitter station, said information being related to said mass medium programming and said transmitter station in said network and said information being different from information generated at other of said plurality of intermediate transmitter stations;

inputting to a computer at said intermediate transmitter station a schedule that designates said mass medium programming and includes at least one of:

(a) a time to transmit said mass medium programming to a remote receiver station;

and

(b) a channel on which to transmit said mass medium programming to said remote receiver station;

selecting said information to be associated with said mass medium programming based on said schedule, said selected information including at least one of video, audio, and software;

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detecting the presence of a said control signal at said intermediate transmitter station and passing said control signal to said computer, said control signal designating at least one of said mass medium programming and said information to be associated with said mass medium programming;

selecting at least one of code and data, said selected at least one of code and data being effective to perform one of: (a) control said remote receiver station, (b) serve as a source of receiver specific data to supplement said mass medium programming, and (c) serve as a source of receiver specific data to complete said mass medium programming;

controlling a selective transmission device to communicate said information to be associated with said mass medium programming to one of a selected signal generator and a signal generator at a selected time;

generating a signal containing said mass medium programming, said selected at least one of code and data and said information to be associated with said mass medium programming; and

transmitting said signal to a remote receiver station.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said mass medium programming includes audio, said method further comprising the step of communicating said audio to a transmitter in accordance with said schedule.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said mass medium programming includes at least one of video, audio, and graphic, said method further comprising the steps of:

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receiving from a subscriber a response to a presentation containing said at least one video, audio, and a graphic; and

communicating second mass medium programming to a transmitter based on said response.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of programming said remote receiver station to select and control the communication of said mass medium programming based on said schedule.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 2, wherein said selective transmission device includes one of a switch and a processor, said method further comprising the step of programming said transmitter station to control said selective transmission device.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said selective transmission device includes a storage device, said method further comprising the steps of receiving and storing said information to be associated with said mass medium programming.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A An intermediate transmitter station in a network with a plurality of intermediate transmitter stations, comprising:

means for receiving mass medium programming and a control signal at said transmitter station from an origination station;

means for generating information to be associated with said mass medium programming at said transmitter station, said information being related to said mass medium programming and said intermediate transmitter station in said network, said information being different from information generated at other of said plurality of intermediate transmitter stations;

computer means for receiving a schedule that designates mass medium programming and includes at least one of a time to transmit said mass medium programming to a remote receiver station and a channel on which to transmit said mass medium programming to a remote receiver station, [[and]] selects information to be associated with said mass medium programming based on said schedule, said selected information including at least one of video, audio, and software, and selects at least one of code and data, said selected at least one of code and data being effective to perform one of: (a) control said remote receiver station, (b) serve as a source of receiver specific data to supplement said mass medium programming, and (c) serve as a source of receiver specific data to complete said mass medium programming;

control signal detecting means for detecting the presence of [[a]] said control signal at said transmitter station and passing said control signal to said computer means, said control signal designating at least one of said mass medium programming and said information to be associated with said mass medium programming;

selective transmission means for communicating said information to be associated with said mass medium programming to one of a selected signal generator and a signal generator at a selected time;

signal generating means for generating a signal containing said mass medium programming, said at least of code and data and said information to be associated with said mass medium programming; and

transmitter means coupled to said signal generating means for transmitting said signal to said remote receiver station.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said second mass medium programming includes at least one of video, audio, and a graphic.